

The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

Edited by F. S. SPENCE
ADDRESS - - TORONTO, ONT.

Subscription, TWENTY-FIVE CENTS a Year

NOTE.—It is proposed to make this the cheapest Temperance paper in the world, taking into consideration its size, the matter it contains and the price at which it is published.

Every friend of temperance is earnestly requested to assist in this effort by subscribing and by sending in facts or arguments that might be of interest or use to our workers.

The editor will be thankful for correspondence upon any topic connected with the temperance reform. Our limited space will compel condensation. No letter for publication should contain more than two hundred words—if shorter, still better.

TORONTO, MAY, 1900

PROHIBITION.

The debate in the House of Commons on April 23rd, on the question of prohibition, was very interesting and instructive. Seventeen members took part, not one of them ventured to directly advocate a continuance of the liquor traffic, and only three failed to declare themselves prohibitionists.

The Alliance resolution which was presented to the House by Mr. T. B. Flint, declared "that Parliament should without delay enact such measures as will secure the prohibition of the liquor traffic for beverage purposes in at least those provinces and territories which have voted in favor of such prohibition." Mr. McClure's amendment declared in favor of total prohibition and Mr. Parmelee's amendment declared that a prohibitory law should not be enacted at present.

Seven of the speakers supported the original resolution, five were in favor of Mr. McClure's amendment, three supported Mr. Parmelee, and two contented themselves with criticizing the Government without advocating any of the proposals.

A good deal of partisan feeling showed itself during the debate. Thirteen of the speakers were Liberals and many of them evinced a strong desire to deny the action or rather inaction of the Government regarding the question. The Conservative speakers criticized the Government very strongly, and most of them objected to Mr. Flint's resolution as being one which would, if carried, in some way assist the Government.

It is no doubt right to assume that if the Liberal party adopted the line of action proposed in Mr. Flint's resolution, and enacted legislation along that line, the result would be to strengthen the party with the temperance electorate, while not alienating the Government supporters in the Province of Quebec who voted so strongly against prohibition. On the other hand the adoption of Mr. McClure's amendment would bring down upon the Government the indignation of the French population who would resent the enforcement of a prohibitory law, and probably ensure the defeat of the party that promoted it.

It is not therefore strange that Conservatives who are strongly partisan would favor the McClure amendment as against the original resolution. Those of them who represent constituencies that are strongly prohibitionist could thus vote for prohibition while at the same time helping to weaken their political opponents.

Some Liberal members believe that any prohibitory legislation promoted by the present Government would be a

weakness to their party. They fear the anger of the liquor men which would follow prohibitory legislation, more than they fear the dis-satisfaction of the prohibitionists which would follow inaction. They therefore desire to see the Parmelee amendment prevail. Many prohibitionist Liberals who represent constituencies that went strongly for prohibition, are naturally anxious to vote in harmony with the wishes of their constituents, and it may be that some of them believe they can do this with least injury to their party by accepting the plan set out in Mr. Flint's resolution. In view of this complicated situation it is not strange that party feeling should crop out strongly in the discussion, and it is unfortunate that in some cases party feeling should prevent a fair consideration of the merits of the important question at issue.

Whatever may be said as to the motives actuating Members of Parliament, and whatever may be said as to motives actuating any prohibition advocate, it is right to say that the Alliance Convention held in Toronto last July, made up of experienced and earnest workers, practically representing every part of the Dominion and every section of the community, ought to be a safe guide as to the line of action most likely to be beneficial to the temperance cause. That convention was in no sense partisan. It contained many ardent Conservatives as well as many strong Liberals, who were all guided by a desire to adopt the policy most likely to be useful to the cause, regardless of its effect upon political parties. The Convention was unanimous in formulating the policy set out in Mr. Flint's resolution, and it was introduced by Mr. Flint at the request of the prohibition party.

We are fully convinced that some of the men opposed to this resolution are honestly and conscientiously convinced that they are right and that the policy they advocate is most useful and hopeful. Their motives must be honored and their arguments respected. It may be that the carrying out of the Alliance plan might save the Liberal party from bitter opposition that it would otherwise meet in the next general election. We submit however, that while the peculiar situation may make the defeat of the Flint resolution a help to the Conservative party when the next appeal to the people is made, its adoption will be of immense advantage to the temperance cause and will be a parliamentary embodiment of a policy which has the endorsement of thoughtful, progressive prohibitionists who put principle before party, and who would sacrifice any mere partisan prejudice for the advancement of the cause which they have so much at heart.

THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

The annual session of the Ontario Legislative Assembly is over. Both Bills introduced regarding the liquor traffic were withdrawn. The Government has promised that at next session the License Law of the Province will be revised and consolidated. The only actual result of the session as far as the liquor traffic is concerned, is the enactment of a provision that hereafter license fees may be paid in half-yearly instalments instead of being paid in full at the beginning of the license year. The liquor men have got a very little. The temperance people have got nothing at all.

In view of the situation in Ontario, in view of the tremendous prohibition vote polled in two plebiscites, in view of the known strength of public opinion and known dis-satisfaction with the present

inconsistent, imperfect and in many respects unworkable License Law, in view of the fact that the head of the Government is a known and avowed prohibitionist, it was reasonable to expect that something more would have been done.

Consolidation and revision are however, promised. Consolidation is badly needed. Revision is needed much more. The door of legislation being thus opened, it behooves temperance people to see that important changes are made before the door is again closed. The revision must be even more than the consolidation. In different respects Ontario, with its strong temperance sentiment is behind other provinces in the embodiment of that sentiment in law. Temperance people must prepare to demand, and the Ontario Government must prepare to grant at next session of the Legislative Assembly a comprehensive measure of license law reform.

PROVINCIAL PROHIBITION.

The speech from the throne at the opening of the present session of the Manitoba Legislature, announced definitely that a prohibitory bill would be among the Government measures to be laid before the House. No details have yet been given, and prohibitionists throughout the Dominion are anxiously waiting to see the result of this new action.

If Manitoba passes a thorough-going provincial prohibitory law and the courts sustain this legislation, other provinces will follow suit. The prohibitionists of Prince Edward Island are already strongly advocating a similar line of action.

The Conservative party in Manitoba has made itself strong by its sound and aggressive policy thus far. If the Conservative party in Dominion politics, were equally aggressive and wise it would rally such a support of the very best elements of the Canadian electorate as would be certain to produce startling results at the next general election.

PICNICS.

The summer time is coming on. Indoor meetings will soon be wearisome and poorly attended. Any falling off in interest in our work may however, be averted, if friends will wisely take advantage of the opportunities that will come for work in the open air. Every Union, every Lodge, every Division, every Council, every temperance organization should plan for a camp meeting or picnic, in as large a way as possible. People can readily be gathered in a cool grove to listen in comfort to short, sound, pithy speeches that may have a wonderfully educative effect. Music and games may make these gatherings attractive, and wise management may make them productive of important results. Earnestly we urge upon all our friends to get ready for a vigorous outdoor campaign.

A SENSIBLE YOUNG WOMAN.

A young couple at Philadelphia were preparing for marriage—the day was fixed and invitations sent out. Just a week before the time, the lady smelled whisky on her lover's breath. She at once declared the engagement off and nothing could induce her to change her mind. He brought suit for breach of promise. The judge instructed the jury that "It is a woman's privilege to annul her promise of marriage if she believes, in good faith, that good reasons for so doing have arisen since she entered into the contract." The jury considered whisky drinking a good reason for breaking the contract and found for defendant. Wisely the brave young woman said: "I'd rather have to work all my life and die an old maid than marry a man who drinks whisky.—N. T. Advocate.

IMPORTANT.

TORONTO, 1900.

DEAR FRIEND,—

You are respectfully requested to carefully examine **The Camp Fire**, a neat four-page monthly Prohibition paper, full of bright, pointed, convenient facts and arguments; containing also a valuable summary of the latest news about our cause. It is just what is needed to **inspire workers and make votes**.

The victory won last year was only the opening of a campaign in which the liquor traffic will do its utmost to block, delay, and if possible prevent our securing the enactment and enforcement of prohibitory law. We have plenty of hard fighting ahead of us. We must keep posted and equipped, knowing all that is being done by our friends and foes, and sophistry and misrepresentation that will be advanced.

The Camp Fire will be one of the best aids you can have in the struggle. It will contain nothing but what you need. Every number ought to be preserved. You cannot afford to be without it, and the subscription price is only nominal, **Twenty-five cents per year**.

While a necessity to every prohibition worker the **The Camp Fire** will also be of special value for distribution. Literature won the plebiscite victory. We must keep up the educating work. Printed matter tells. It does its work continuously, silently, fearlessly and No form of literature is so generally read and so potential as the up-to-date periodical. It comes with the force and interest of newness and life. For this reason the form of a monthly journal has been selected.

This journal will be in every respect reliable and readable. Every article will be short, good and forcible, containing nothing sectional, sectarian or partisan. The literature of the old world and the new world will be ransacked for the most helpful and effective material. The price is very low.

Such literature will convince many a man whom his neighbors cannot convince. It will talk to him quietly, in his own home, in his leisure moments, when he can listen uninterruptedly, when he cannot talk back and when the personality of the talker cannot interfere with the effect of the talk.

It will ply him with facts, arguments and appeals, that will influence, instruct and benefit him. It will set him thinking. This is half the battle. Its wide circulation will swell the victory that we are about to win. This is its object.

Your help is asked in this great work. *Every society* should subscribe for and distribute hundreds of copies. This is the easiest and surest plan of making prohibition votes. Look at the terms:

Twenty copies will be sent to any one address every month for six months, for ONE DOLLAR, payable in advance

On no other plan can a small investment be made to produce so much of educative results. One hundred and twenty copies may be placed in as many homes. And have more than HALF A THOUSAND readers. One dollar will cover this placing of the claims of our cause before five hundred people. Ten dollars may reach FIVE THOUSAND. WILL YOU HELP US?

Address,

F. S. SPENCE,
52 Confederation Life Building,
Toronto.